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ATTACHMENT C

DRAFT
17 April 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Restructuring of the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Program

REFERENCE : USIB-D-51.1/8, 28 August 1963

1. The NIS Committee recommends that the remaining topical detailed sections be discontinued as part of the NIS Program and that emphasis and resources be directed toward production of a restructured and top-quality General Survey, augmented on a highly selective basis by some of the more broadly useful material from the detailed sections.

Rationale

2. Gradual attrition of the detailed sections over the years has produced a melange of topical coverage (see attachment). Shifting requirements for basic intelligence, a more realistic appraisal of what the NIS Program can achieve, and dwindling resources have each played a role in eroding the original concept of worldwide, up-to-date, and well-integrated topical coverage. Discontinuance of topics was in each case agreed to only after careful consideration

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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of identifiable user requirements and availability of alternative coverage, but it is now becoming evident that the cumulative effect of the attrition is a program lacking coherence and focus.

3. Although NIS programming has adhered to the USIB-approved NIS plan for country priorities, for many of the detailed sections still being produced, area coverage has also been markedly curtailed. Transportation and Armed Forces sections, as examples, are now being produced for only a few countries. The result is a disparate and confusing pattern of coverage.

4. User surveys have indicated that some of the more specialized detailed sections have quite limited, albeit steadfast, readership. Faltering interdepartmental interest in certain topics raises the question of their continued suitability in a national intelligence program. As is conceptualized in the Reference, this specialized detailed basic intelligence was designed for the most part to meet military requirements. Much of it might appropriately be produced departmentally.

5. Continuing and increasing budgetary restrictions have taken and are taking heavy toll on the NIS Program. However, what remains can be made to meet important needs of the national security policy community by placing full emphasis on community production of a coordinated, high-quality, and broadly based General Survey which

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would better utilize the available resources than the present disparate program. Also, the production structure and organization of a new General Survey would enable the program to meet any future requirements for an expanded national basic intelligence effort.

Plan

6. Programmed production of the topical detailed sections would be discontinued by the end of FY 72.

7. The General Survey, slightly expanded and restructured in a bound-by-chapter format, would become the body of the program. In addition to providing greater efficiency and flexibility in maintenance, the new format will enable the NIS to selectively incorporate into the appropriate chapters -- or as separate annexes -- some of the more widely useful data now contained in the detailed sections. This will apply particularly to DoD-produced information which cannot be adequately produced and published departmentally.

8. The semiannually produced Basic Intelligence Factbook would continue to be published in both the classified and unclassified versions.

9. The special NIS on oceanography would be continued for another year pending the completion of an assessment of interagency requirements in this field.

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Impact

10. Total elimination of the remaining detailed sections would reduce NIS production by about 30%. Some of the manpower saving implicit in the cutback would have to be redirected to implementing the production of the enhanced General Survey. Although precise figures on anticipated money and manpower savings have not yet been determined, it is estimated that the overall NIS resources saving would be about 20%, much of which has already been realized through imposed reductions in the NIS effort.

Action Requested

11. The NIS Committee requests that USIB, in accordance with its responsibility for providing policy direction to the NIS Program as outlined in the Reference, approve the plan to discontinue production of NIS topical detailed sections by the end of FY 72 and to integrate on a selective basis broadly useful material from those sections, as appropriate, into the new General Survey.

JOHN KERRY KING
Chairman, NIS Committee

Attachment:
Attrition of NIS Detailed Sections

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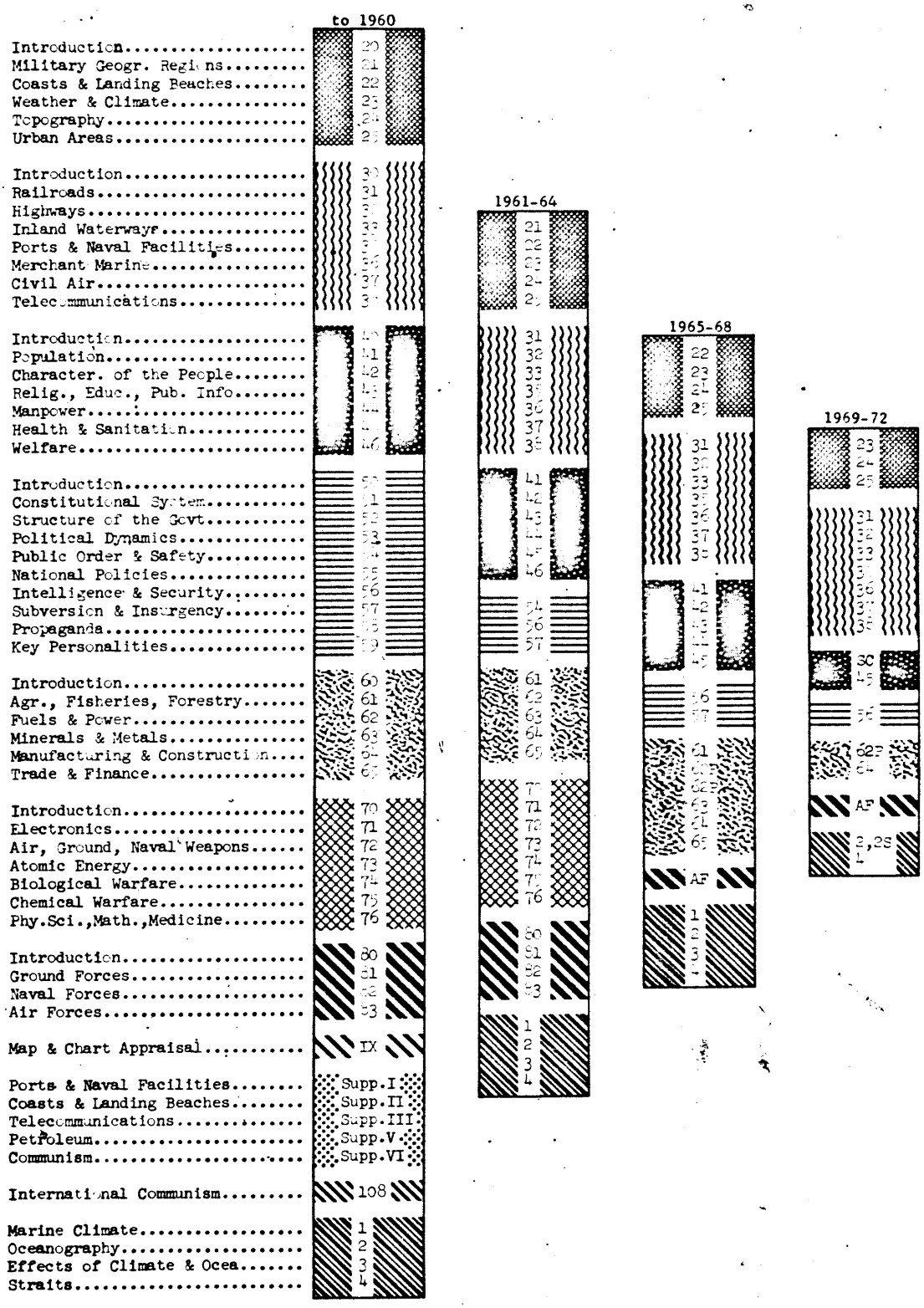
ATTRITION OF NIS DETAILED SECTIONS



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